REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 17-28, and 30 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 18, 19, 21, 23, and 24 are amended, Claims 3, 7, 13-16, and 29 are canceled, and Claim 30 is added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed October 30, 2003, was objected to; Claims 1, 19, and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph; Claims 14, 16, 18, 21, and 23-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 1 and 4-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Sato (U.S. Patent No. 6,445,513 B2, herein "Sato"); Claims 3 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Ohtake et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,528,428, herein "Ohtake"); Claims 3, 13, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Noda (U.S. Patent No. 5,731,915) in view of Huang (U.S. Patent No. 6,490,102); Claims 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Sato; Claim 29 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kato (U.S. Patent No. 4,390,251); Claims 6-7, 9-10, 12, 16, 19, 20, 22, and 25-28 are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form and to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; and Claims 19, 21, and 23-24 are indicated as allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

In light of the indication of allowable subject matter in Claim 7, independent Claim 1 is amended to recite the allowable features of Claim 7 and Claim 7 is canceled. In addition, independent Claim 3 and each of the claims depending therefrom are canceled, independent Claims 21, 23, and 24 are amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second

paragraph, and independent Claim 29 is canceled. New independent Claim 30 is added to recite the features of allowed Claim 6 and the features of its base claim. In addition, Claims 1 and 18 are amended as suggested in the outstanding Office Action to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs. No new matter has been added.

Regarding independent Claim 1, Applicant notes pending Claim 1 recites in lines 8-9 a fourth lens group including "a positive meniscus fifth lens or a negative meniscus fifth lens" and Claim 7 recites that "said fifth lens is the negative lens." Accordingly, Claim 1 is amended to omit the language "a positive meniscus fifth lens or" such that amended Claim 1 now recites the allowable features of Claim 7.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits the outstanding rejections on the merits are moot in view of the present claim amendments.

Regarding the objection to the related application of the IDS filed on October 30, 2003, because a patent has been issued for that related application, Applicant submits a form PTO-1449 listing that patent and provides a copy of the patent instead of providing the claims and drawings of the related application. Because of this substitution of the related application with the issued patent, no certification and fee are provided with the filed IDS. Applicant respectfully requests that the patent listed on the form PTO-1449 be initialed as acknowledged.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment,

this application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action

to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

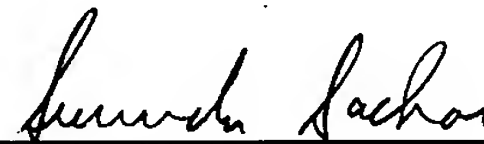OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
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